

**National Dialogue on Ecological Policy**  
**Odum School of Ecology, Seminar Room**  
**University of Georgia**  
**April 10, 2008**  
**11:00 am**

On April 10, 2008, the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia, the UGA River Basin Center, the Multi-State Working Group on Environmental Performance (MSWG), and Ecological Futures Consulting, LLC will host a national dialogue at the University of Georgia in Athens to receive input from a wide range of leaders in public policy, ecology, economics, and law on next generation environmental policy. The dialogue is one of 36 being held around the country to receive input for the MSWG Path to Washington – Convening Leaders for an Ecologically Sustainable America. The dialogue will begin at 11:00 am and the conversations will become part of the record for the Path to Washington.

The Multi-State Working Group on Environmental Performance [www.mswg.org](http://www.mswg.org) seeks to sustain long-term environmental improvement and integrate it into the nation's culture. MSWG was established in 1996 as a small, informal affiliation of regulators, businesses, environmentalists and scholars focused on studying environmental management systems (EMSs) and their potential to achieve environmental results. Today, MSWG is a network of more than 800 participants in the United States and 12 countries. It is a forum for determined change agents from all sectors who respect each other's views and want to go environmentally further than we are today.

MSWG is the sponsoring organization of the Path to Washington. The Path to Washington is a 3-year process resulting in a new set of policy tools that will improve ecological performance, sustain communities, and provide for a sustainable economy. To be successful, the tools must be commonly understood, broadly supported, and lead to real change. This is where you, as a leader, come in. To develop an effective base of ideas, the Path to Washington is obtaining input from a diverse group of leaders in environmental non-governmental organizations, regulatory agencies, industry, and academic institutions throughout the United States. Before June 2009, dialogues will be held in at least 36 locations.

Distinguished, challenging and influential speakers from all sectors of society and numerous nations have participated in MSWG's process of developing the Path to Washington, supporting the MSWG mission of being a "voice for ecological innovation and integration". The Path to Washington's final product is proposals for national, state, and local collaborations, practices, and policies that lead to measurable ecological improvement in a manner that is sustainable for communities and businesses. Several interim reports will be issued before the Report to the Nation in the fall of 2009.